WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

175TH ANNIVERSARY

Winchester News celebrates Winchester's 175th Anniversary

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

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Happy 175th, Winchester! It's our pleasure as Winchester's newest media outlet to celebrate our community as its birthday comes around.

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As many of you may know, Winchester News was born out of the Communications Study Committee, which was formed by the town in order to find out how it could better communicate with residents.

The committee found that in addition to some needed improvements in its own communication, the town needed a local news source. The Winchester Star had been bought out by Gannett Media and then merged with the Arlington Advocate in 2022 to create The Advocate and Star.

Subscribe

Tara Hughes

The problem? The paper rarely had coverage of either town and when it did, it was not comprehensive. Winchester was slowly turning into a news desert.

So, in 2023, a group of local residents got together and Winchester News was born.

The mission of Winchester News is to be a trusted and reliable source of local news. Our vision is to fill that information gap left by the loss of the Winchester Star and to increase civic participation and improve civil discourse.

Almost two years later, we are still working on making that mission and that vision a reality. There are always bumps in the road, but I believe we have made some excellent progress.

Due to that progress, and the support of our community, we are able to present a special print edition to all residents in honor of Winchester's 175th Birthday. It showcases the people, landmarks and events that have formed out community.

Winchester News would like to thank Electra Govoni and Hilda Wong-Doo from the Winchester Historic Society, Winchester Town Archivist Ellen Knight, architectural historian Maureen Meister, restoration expert Nancy Schrock and historian Vincent Dixon for their expertise, advice and support in putting together our special edition.

We would also like to thank all of our sponsors.

We hope the special edition that all residents in Winchester received in their mailbox will be both informative and a keepsake. Enjoy!

Subscribe

For more Winchester history, visit Winchester History Online (with the link https://www.winchester.us/480/Winchester-History-Online).

P.S. Don't forget to check out WinchesterNews.org and subscribe to our free newsletter, which will arrive in your inbox every Thursday morning!

Tara Hughes, president, Winchester News Board of Directors

Related

FEATURES

Documentary reveals Winchester's close call with being named 'Harmony'

The Winchester Historical Society marked the town's 175th anniversary with the world premiere of "The Changing Shape of Winchester," a documentary examining how the community's boundaries evolved since its 1850 incorporation. Filmmaker Peter Engeldrum presented his latest work to a full house at the Jenks Center, concluding a

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

November 28, 2025

Winchester Celebrates 175th Anniversary • 1850-2025

The tale behind the saving of Charles Pressey's 'Village of Winchester'

BY NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

A phone call out of the blue set off a series of events in 2017 that led to the uncovering of a Winchester treasure that hadn't been seen in town for more than 40 years or perhaps even longer.

The call came from a friend of longtime resident Nancy Schrock, a member of the Historical Society, who told her a painting of the Old Converse Mill from Winchester was up for auction at Bonhams Skinner in Boston.

The painting was described as American School, 19th Century, unsigned, oil on academy board in a simple wood frame. Its condition was "surface grime."

The painting was estimated to sell between $400-$600.

"My first reaction was, 'Oh, it's wonderful!'" Schrock said. "My second reaction was to send it to Ellen Knight."

The town archivist gave it a good once over.

"She called me back and said, 'Nancy, this is our painting!'" Schrock said.

Enlisting the help of her husband, Richard, Schrock headed out to Boston to inform the auction house it was in possession of a painting belonging to the town. But the auction house needed more proof.

The back of the painting was removed, where a card was found

[sic] done before 1800." Schrock also noted a very faint watermark that read "Winchester Historical and Genealogical Society, Winchester, Mass."

the society as a present by Mrs. E Pressey on July 4, 1889 in honor of her husband, artist Charles Pressey. E Pressey is believed to be Charles Pressey's wife, Elizabeth, one of the

School Committee.

"We knew it belonged to us," Schrock said, "but they would not stop the auction. They said we needed to do a lot

175TH ANNIVERSARY

Winchester News' 175th Anniversary print edition

We hope everyone enjoyed our first foray into the world of print! Town Day, to be held on June 7 this year, will have some focus on the 175th Anniversary and the history of Winchester. Therefore, Winchester News is sponsoring a trolley tour covering some Winchester history that should dovetail

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

May 7, 2025

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175TH ANNIVERSARY

Do you know the renowned residents of Winchester?

Winchester has been the home of many people who have won acclaim in their professional lives or participated with distinction in historic events. Below is a list of such individuals by category. Please contact the Archival Center for suggestions for further inclusions.
AERONAUTICS/AVIATION Jay Bayard Benton, aeronaut Paul Collins,

ELLEN KNIGHT | CORRESPONDENT
May 2, 2025

175TH ANNIVERSARY

Who are the people who made up Winchester?

When the first British colonists arrived in New England during the 17th century, the native inhabitants of the area now incorporated into the Town of Winchester were members of the Massachusett tribe. The original colonists were Puritans led by Gov. John Winthrop. The first colonial town to which Winchester territory

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May 1, 2025

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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